

Dear Public Housing Authority (PHA) Executive Director, Section 8 Director/Manager, PHA staff, Realtors, Lenders, Appraisers, Real Estate Inspectors, Real Estate Title/Settlement Companies, Housing and Credit Counseling Agencies, Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE's), Nonprofit Housing Organizations, and Federal, State, City and County Agencies:

Homeownership represents the realization of the American Dream for many families. It is also good public policy because it is known to promote social and economic benefits for the homeowners and the communities in which they reside, and it is often a key component of families moving to self-sufficiency. The Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program (HCVHP) is a tool with enormous potential to increase the number of new homeowners.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has joined with the NeighborWorks® America in sponsoring a HCVHP training workshop to be held in HUD's Pacific/Hawaii Region on December 7-9, 2005 at the Hilton San Francisco, 333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, California, at (415-771-1400), or toll-free at (800) 445-8667. Attendees may also opt to lodge at the Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel, 55 Cyril Magnin Street, San Francisco, California, at (415) 392-8000, or toll-free at (800) 595-0507. The two homeownership workshops are part of a weeklong NeighborWorks® America Training Institute. More information on the entire week's courses is available at <http://nw.org/network/training/SanFrancisco05.asp>.

This HCVHP event will include representatives of PHAs that operate successful homeownership programs, realtors, lenders underwriting loans under the homeownership program, State Housing Finance Agencies, as well as housing and credit counseling agencies. Our purpose is to assist PHAs to either create a homeownership program, or expand an existing one. Invitees have the option of registering for the overview course on December 7 and/or the complete two-day homeownership course on the 8th and 9th. The courses will consist of:

December 7, 2005 – Creating a Successful Voucher Homeownership Program: This one-day course introduces participants to the regulations governing use of the Section 8 voucher in homeownership, and draws on the experience of a number of nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities in developing practical suggestions for successful program design.

December 8, 2005 (Day 1) – Managing a Successful Voucher Homeownership Program Nuts and Bolts: Workshop Training to Create or Expand a Successful Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program.

December 9, 2005 (Day 2) – Managing a Successful Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program Best Practices: Managing strategies and panel discussions with PHAs in HUD's Pacific/Hawaii Region; State Housing Finance Agencies; lenders currently underwriting loans under the HCVHP; and housing and credit counseling agencies will also participate in the panel discussion.

Since these training workshops address a range of issues affecting the program, HUD and NeighborWorks® America are requesting your participation. The registration form for PHAs is available online at: <http://www.nw.org/network/training/documents/HUD.pdf>. *Please note that the registration deadline of October 11, 2005 has been extended.* For non-PHA attendees, the registration form is available online at: <http://www.nw.org/network/training/SanFrancisco05.asp#F01>.

If you are unable to access the online registration, please contact Marietta Rodriguez at (303) 512-0512, mrodriguez@nw.org, or by fax at (303) 782-5568. You are responsible for reserving your hotel room by contacting the Hilton Hotel or Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel.

HUD and NeighborWorks® America thank you for helping low-income and minority families achieve the American Dream of Homeownership.